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FIRM THAT MAKES TRANSCRIPTS OF TOP HEARINGS

They Work Like a Spy Agency

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In this anxious era, the stenographic service of Ward and Paul, which processes transcripts of top secret congressional hearings, regards even a used typewriter ribbon as a security risk.

For this reason, two such ribbons were among the items conveyed by special messenger to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the day after the conclusion of hearings on the U-2 spy plane incident.

Also in the sealed package were the original stenotype notes, all copies of the typed transcript, the master mimeograph sheets, all carbon papers and every scrap of waste paper.

CONCERNED

Wayne Birdsell, manager of Ward and Paul, likes to feel his outfit is as security-conscious as any government agency. All employees concerned with secret documents are cleared for security by the Pentagon, and the classified papers are stored in special safes until delivered to the committee concerned.

Moreover, Ward and Paul has never had a "scandal." That is, there never has been the slightest hint that any employee ever leaked any secret information, either to newspapermen or to opposition politicians.

In all, 16 Ward and Paul staffers have been cleared by the Defense Department to handle secret texts. These include stenographers — or reporters — the typists who

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transcribe the notes, duplicate and four supervisors. All are pledged not to discuss the contents of the documents, even with one another. And Ward and Paul keeps no copies of the transcripts.

SINCE 1933

Ward and Paul has been handling committee hearings and sessions of assorted government departments and agencies since 1933, when Alfred C. Paul and Jesse L. Ward formed their partnership. But it wasn't until the Senate hearings on the ouster of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in 1951 that the Pentagon decided its employees needed security clearance. Since then the service has covered hundreds of secret hearings.

The service's best-known

account is its reporting of President Eisenhower's press conferences for a group of 50 newspaper, radio and television customers. This is Ward and Paul's most hectic assignment, since it must have the transcript ready within two hours after the end of the press conference.